

CONGRESS.

An Abstract of the More Important Proceedings in Both Houses.

THURSDAY, FEB. 25.

The Vice-President laid before the Senate the credentials of John Sherman, of Ohio, for Senator for six years commencing March 4, 1892, and they were read and placed on file.

Mr. Vance, from the Finance Committee, reported back adversely the bill introduced by Mr. Gilman, of Louisiana, to provide an income tax to pay pensions and the salaries of postmasters. Mr. Vance stating that the Senate did not the Constitutional power to originate such a measure. The bill was then dropped.

The Senate then took up and considered the urgent deficiency bill. Mr. Sherman called attention to one of the amendments reported by the Senate Committee on Appropriations, which provided for the National Zoological Park in the District of Columbia, which provides that half the amount shall be paid by the District of Columbia, and he moved to strike out the words "the District of Columbia" and insert "the National Zoo, and the District people should not be taxed for its maintenance."

After a lengthy discussion Mr. Sherman withdrew the amendment, fearing that it would delay the bill.

Several other amendments were offered and voted down, and the bill was then passed.

The contested election case of Claggett against Thomas J. Isham, was then taken up and debated for the balance of the day's session. No conclusion being reached it went over.

The Senate adjourned at 4 p. m.

In the House, Mr. Brown, of D. C., from the Committee on Elections, submitted a report on the contested election case of Craig against Stewart, from the 24th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. The report, which finds in favor of the contestant, was placed upon the Calendar, and Mr. Brown gave notice that he would call it up for action on Tuesday next.

Mr. Tucker, (Va., D.), from the Committee on Election of President, Vice-President, and members of Congress, reported a joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment for the election of Senators by the people of the several States.

Placed on the House Calendar.

Mr. Fithian, (Ill., D.), asked unanimous consent for the consideration of a resolution calling on the Postmaster-General for information relative to the routes of mail between the United States and foreign ports.

Mr. Dooliver, (Iowa, R.), objected and the resolution was laid on the table.

In the evening Mr. Wise, (Va., D.), from the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, called up the bill authorizing railroad companies to grant reduced rates to commercial travelers.

Mr. Wise strongly advocated the measure, and argued that the passage of the bill would prove beneficial to the consumers of the country.

Mr. Lind, (Wis., R.), who drew the minority report in opposition to the measure, suggested that if this were true the same result would be accomplished by allowing the same privileges to non-commercial travelers.

The bill went over without action.

Filibustering was then resorted to prevent the taking up of the free coinage bill. After several roll-calls had been ordered on motions for a recess and adjournment, the House refused to reconsider the vote by which the resolution for Russian relief was indefinitely postponed. The resolution was tabled without a division, thus finally defeating the measure.

The House adjourned at 5 p. m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24.

In the Senate, immediately after the reading of the Journal, Mr. Sherman, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, reported back favorably the joint resolution, introduced by Mr. Perkins, requesting the President to return to the Republic of Mexico the late war with Mexico. He said it was an act of courtesy to a friendly power which had been suggested by Congress by the American Minister to Mexico, and also by Mr. Curtis, the gentleman connected with the organization of the Bureau of American Republics, and that the Committee on Foreign Relations thought it a generous and proper thing to do for a friendly nation.

Mr. Cockrell expressed his hearty approval of the joint resolution, and it was thereupon passed.

The Idaho election contest was then taken up, and Mr. Gray addressed the Senate in favor of Mr. Claggett, and Mr. Palmer in favor of Mr. Isham. After a lengthy discussion of the question, the Senate adjourned at 4 p. m.

In the House, Mr. Livingston, (Ga., D.) asked unanimous consent for the immediate consideration of the following preamble and resolution:

"In view of the most and extremely distressed condition of the masses of the people in this country and their eager inquiry as to the policy of this House toward the people."

"Resolved, That we, the Representatives of the people, do hereby declare that we will do all in our power for relief on the line of improved finances and reduced taxation." Mr. Taylor, (Ill., R.) objected.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Indian appropriation bill.

Mr. Peck, (Ark., D.), who has charge of the bill, asked consent that the first reading of the bill (which covers 29 printed pages) be dispensed with, but Mr. Hooper, (Miss., D.) objected, and the reading of the bill was continued for an hour, no member paying the slightest attention to it. The motion to discontinue reading was then rejected and carried.

Mr. Peck explained the provisions of the bill, stating that the law for the current year on the appropriation of \$15,000,000, but that for the year 1892 it was \$20,000,000, and that he was to pay for lands purchased from various Indian tribes. This amount was not properly chargeable to the appropriation bill for the Indian service for the year, but he was to pay from the face of the law, the appropriation for the year was \$20,000,000. The pending bill appropriated \$7,396,787, being \$10,415,055 less than the amount appropriated in the bill for its face, and \$899,157 less than the total of that measure after deducting the amount paid for lands.

A long discussion ensued over the bill, but without reaching a conclusion the committee rose, and the House at 5 p. m. adjourned.

THURSDAY, FEB. 25.

The Vice-President laid before the Senate a message from the President regarding the payment of Chetawak and Chickasaw Indians for the lands ceded by them, which was read and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. Proctor introduced a joint resolution providing for a Constitutional amendment, so that the President shall hold office for one term of six years, and shall not be eligible for reelection, which was laid on the table for the present.

Senator Palmer introduced the Senate on the joint resolution introduced by him proposing a Constitutional amendment relating to the election of United States Senators by the people. The resolution reads as follows:

"The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the people for six years, and each Senator shall have one vote."

Election for Senators in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legislature.

"When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, by resignation or otherwise, the Executive authority thereof shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies."

"At any election for Senator the person receiving the highest number of votes shall be held to be duly elected."

At the conclusion of Mr. Palmer's remarks, Mr. Chandler asked that the resolution lie on the table, as he wished to be heard on the question. The subject went over.

Elaborate to the memory of the late Senator Preston B. Plumb, of Kansas, were then delivered by Senators Peffer, Hale, Cockrell, Morrill, Daniel, Dolph, Chandler, Turpie, Allison, Wallahall, and Perkins, and the Senate at 5 o'clock adjourned on a further mark of respect.

In the House, the President's message regarding the payment of the Chetawak and Chickasaw Indians was read, and ordered printed and to lie on the table for the present.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the Indian appropriation bill. Mr. Blain, (Mo., D.) was recognized and got the floor, but did not devote his time to the bill. He

sent to the Clerk's desk and had read a circular letter to Mr. Carter, of Ohio, of the various Grand Army Posts, in denunciation of the free silver bill, and advising the members of the Posts to urge their Congressmen to vote against it, as it would prove detrimental to the interests of the pensioners. This circular Mr. Blain characterized as a bullying document. It was an effort to intimidate members, and was part of the bullying tactics of the millionaire. The circular had been sent to Mr. Carter, in opposition to the measure which would give free silver to the country. He denounced it as unfair and unbecoming the dignity of a member to practice. The silver question was one that should be settled by the House, and he would settle it, and the sooner it was done the better. The majority of the unfettered Democracy of the House was in favor of the free coinage bill, and no building could be erected if it was not so.

Mr. Harter, (Ohio, D.) rose to respond, but Mr. Smith, of Arizona, cleared the floor and was recognized by the Chair.

Mr. Harter, then, appealed to the Chairman that it was but fair to him that he should be allowed to reply to a personal attack. The committee was in great confusion and Mr. Harter's appeal was in vain and Mr. Harter, (Ohio, D.) came to the floor with the declaration that never before in his experience had a gentleman been denied an opportunity to reply to a personal attack.

After a good deal of skirmishing between the gentlemen who desired to talk on silver and those who wished to proceed with the business on hand, Mr. Harter was granted ten minutes in which to speak and Mr. Blain five minutes in which to reply.

Mr. Harter admitted the authorship of the circular letter. The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. Blain) had spoken of it as a bullying document. Mr. Harter said that it was not a bullying document, but a statement of his opinion. Such a circular might seem to be bullying, but to men who entertained opinions which they were willing to maintain under all circumstances, such a circular was not bullying. It was a statement of his opinion, and he was not ashamed of it. It was fair and proper that the people of the country, who were not familiar with the legislation that was proposed by Congress, should receive a statement of his opinion.

The gentleman from Missouri had referred to him as a millionaire. He was not a millionaire, nor was he the owner of any National bank. He was more of a farmer than was the gentleman from Missouri. He was a good Democrat as the gentleman. He was opposed to class legislation, whether it came under the head of a protective tariff or under the head of protection to silver producers at the expense of the whole country. He was much opposed to giving the silver-bullion producers the earnings of the people as he was to giving them to the manufacturers.

Mr. Simpson, (Kansas, Farmer's Alliance), said that the corn of Kansas should be made a legal tender, and not the silver of Colorado.

Mr. Blain, of Missouri, then sent to the Clerk's desk the Congressional Record, and had Mr. Harter's biography read, and great laughter. He was mentioned as a member of the Golden Club, of London; the Reform Club, New York; the Young Men's Democratic Club, of Cincinnati; and the Young Men's Democratic Club, of Chicago.

Mr. Blain denied that he was not a Democrat. He had never voted any other ticket in his life. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Harter) said that he was a Democrat, and Mr. Harter said that he was a Democrat.

Mr. Harter replied: "No, sir, John Sherman holds with me." (Great laughter.)

Mr. Harter then said: "There is no difference between the gold and silver dollar. I have no gold except this," pulling out his gold watch and shaking it at Mr. Blain, who whipped out a large silver watch and offered to exchange with him. Loud laughter and applause all over the House.

After further debate and without action on the bill the House adjourned at 5:15 p. m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 26.

The Vice-President laid before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury in answer to a Senate resolution, taking strong ground against the proposed transfer of the National Debt to the National Treasury to the Navy Department. The Secretary recommends the creation of a retired list for the Revenue Marine Service. It was referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Higgins offered a resolution requesting the President to return to the Republic of Mexico the late war with Mexico. It was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. Sherman suggested that the resolution should be amended so that it should read: "Resolved, That we, the Representatives of the people, do hereby declare that we will do all in our power for relief on the line of improved finances and reduced taxation." Mr. Taylor, (Ill., R.) objected.

The consideration of the bill on the calendar to provide a permanent system of highways in that part of the District of Columbia lying outside the city of Washington, and particularly the reference authorizing the issue of bonds, opened up the way for a discussion on finance generally.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the bill for the relief of A. J. Duncan, of Tennessee, another silver discussion resulted in a long debate, and the House at 5 p. m. adjourned.

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NEW YORK DEMOCRATS.

Senator D. B. Hill Captures the Empire State Convention.

The Democratic State Convention of New York was held at Albany, on Monday, Feb. 23, and such crowds as filled the streets have never before seen as a similar gathering in that city.

Chairman Murphy called the Convention to order and named the temporary organization which had been formed for the purpose of calling the Convention. Judge Debevoise, of the Court of Claims, was the temporary chairman, and he delivered a speech which was warmly applauded, and upon his mention of Senator Hill's name the delegates rose and cheered and sang their fight for nearly 10 minutes.

Gen. Daniel E. Sickles was made permanent Chairman, and when he was introduced to the Convention received an ovation. He made a brief speech, outlining the Democratic policy. The platform was adopted unanimously. In dealing with financial questions, the platform of the New York Democracy in 1874 is referred to as follows:

"We now, as then, steadfastly adhere to the principles of a sound finance. We are against the coinage of any silver dollar which is not of the intrinsic value of every other dollar of the United States."

"We therefore denounce the new Sherman silver law, under which one-tenth of our gold stock has been exported and all our silver output is dumped up at home, as a false promise, which has caused the country to lose its free metallic coinage, and as tending only to produce a change from one kind of monopolism to another."

"We therefore unite with the friends of honest money everywhere in stigmatizing the Sherman progressive silver law as no solution of the gold and silver question, and as a fit appendix to the subsidy and bounty swindle of the McKinley money law. The bill is a reciprocity humbug, the squandered surplus, the advancing deficit, the defective census and falsified representation, and the revolutionary proceedings of the Billion Congress, all justly condemned by the people. The bill, passed November 1890, a verdict which, renewed this year 1892, will empower Democratic statesmen to guide the people's councils and to execute the people's will."

The platform points to the record of Gov. Hill with pride, citing the many excellent things accomplished under his administration of the State's affairs, closing as follows:

"The Democracy of New York, with a proud hope, yet with perfect deference to their brethren of other States and cordial estimation of their renowned leaders as worthy standard-bearers of a people's cause, point to the record of David B. Hill as the candidate for President of the United States—a Democrat who has led his party from victory to victory for seven successive years, and who has never known defeat."

The delegation was further instructed to vote as a unit on all matters intrusted to their charge. The delegates at-large chosen by the convention are R. F. Flower, Edward Murphy, Jr., Gen. Daniel E. Sickles, and Gen. Henry W. Slocum.

Senator Hill was then introduced to the Convention, and as he appeared at the door of the hall the entire assembly sprang to their feet and commenced cheering. The cheering continued until the Senator reached the platform; Senator then read a carefully-prepared speech, which was warmly applauded.

The Committee were on hand to protest against the Convention being held at so early a date, had a hearing before the State Executive Committee, but the protest was laid on the table without discussion. The name of ex-President Cleveland was not mentioned in the Convention.

Agents wanted. Comrades preferred. See page 4.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

Celebrated in a Fitting Manner at the National Club.

The 23d day of February was fittingly celebrated in Washington by the various civic and military organizations. The day was bright and sunny, and the streets were crowded with people, the sidewalks on Pennsylvania avenue being particularly thronged. The day was literally jammed with promenaders.

The Old Guard started from their Army at 2 o'clock, marched to the National Rifles Army, where they turned out and saluted as the Old Guard came past. The two organizations then paraded over the route previously arranged, finally marching to the Old Guard's Army, where the Rifles were bandied by the Rifles.

The Washington Light Infantry also paraded from their army to the foot of the Capitol, thence back up Pennsylvania avenue to Ninth street. The High School Cadets turned out in full battle dress, and marched in a grand procession through the various streets gave a dress parade in front of the Arlington Hotel.

The Veteran Firemen also turned out, and in a grand procession, they marched to the foot of the Capitol, where they turned out and saluted as the Old Guard came past. The two organizations then paraded over the route previously arranged, finally marching to the Old Guard's Army, where the Rifles were bandied by the Rifles.

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